MULTI AWARD WINNING!

SCIENCE + ANIMALS + PUZZLES + PEOPLE + ARTS + PHOTOS + BOOKS + SPORTS + KETCHUP SMOOTHIES

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
Global sports event wraps up in China
p3

THE WORLD GAMES

ARTS
Japanese artist has big show
p20

HOW TO
Special day to cherish grandparents
p24

August 29, 2025 • Vol. 6, Issue 280 • $5.99

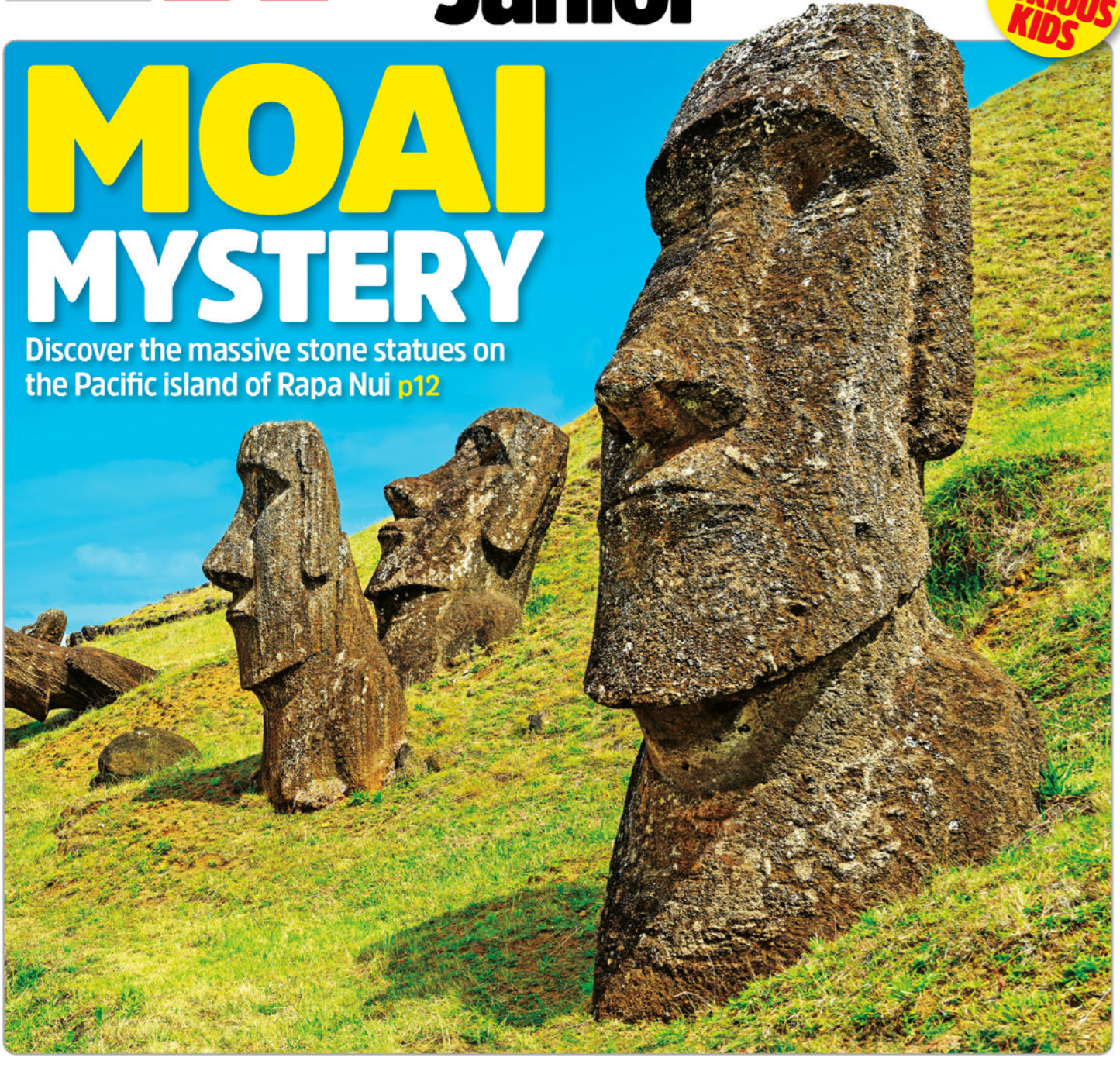
Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

MOAI MYSTERY

Discover the massive stone statues on the Pacific island of Rapa Nui p12



DID YOU KNOW?
The war between Russia and Ukraine that began in 2022 is the largest conflict in Europe since World War II (1939–1945).

World leaders at the White House on August 18

Seward's folly

In 1867, the US purchased Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million in a deal negotiated by US Secretary of State William Seward (above). Many Americans thought the transaction was a waste of money, and it was ridiculed in the press as "Seward's folly." Historians now say the acquisition was a smart move.

US hosts Ukraine peace talks

Two sets of talks were held in the US, first in Alaska and then in Washington, DC, as part of negotiations to end the war between Ukraine and Russia. The war began in 2022 when Russia invaded the neighboring country of Ukraine, an independent nation that Russia believes should be part of its country instead.

What happened in Alaska?

On August 15, President Donald Trump met with Vladimir Putin, president of Russia, at a US military base near Anchorage, Alaska. It was the first face-to-face meeting between Putin and a US President since the war began and Putin's first visit to America in a decade. No details about their discussions were released. Before the meeting, Trump said a ceasefire (pause in fighting) was the top priority. Afterward, however, he said a ceasefire wasn't necessary and called for Russia and Ukraine to reach a peace agreement without one. Trump also said Ukraine might have to give up some land in order to end the war. Putin has insisted that Russia will only agree to peace if Ukraine gives up about 20% of its land, on the border between the nations. Ukraine has said it will not give up any land to Russia.

Vladimir Putin

What happened in Washington, DC?

On August 18, Trump met at the White House with Volodymyr Zelensky, president of Ukraine, and seven European leaders who support Ukraine. They were Emmanuel Macron of France, Keir Starmer of the UK, Giorgia Meloni of Italy, Friedrich Merz of Germany, Alexander Stubb of Finland, Mark Rutte of NATO (military alliance of 32 countries), and Ursula von der Leyen of the European Commission. They are among the many European leaders who fear that if Putin is not stopped in Ukraine, he could try to take more of the continent by force. The group discussed a ceasefire, a peace deal, and the need to provide Ukraine with "security guarantees," such as troops that would protect the country against any future aggression from Russia. Trump said Europe must lead this effort but the US will help. No specific commitments in any of these areas were made.

Why is the US involved?

Ukraine is a small country that could not hold off Russia's attempts to control it without help from the US and other allies. Since the war began, the US has supported Ukraine with billions of dollars in military equipment and aid to the country, as have many European countries, Japan, and Canada. Since taking office again in January, however, Trump has reduced US support. After the meeting, Zelensky said Ukraine will buy $90 million in American weapons, with Europe as an intermediary. The US will buy drones from Ukraine.

How did people react?

Zelensky said the meeting at the White House was "truly a significant step toward ending the war." Rutte called discussions of US help with security guarantees a "breakthrough," and Starmer said world leaders demonstrated a "real sense of unity." Meloni said the nations were "ready to take action" if Russia attacked Ukraine again in the future. Merz and Macron reiterated the need for a ceasefire while a peace deal is negotiated. However, Macron also warned that "Russia is showing no signs of genuinely wanting peace," and political experts expressed skepticism that the meetings will result in real progress toward ending the war.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on August 19, Trump said a meeting between Zelensky and Putin would take place soon, followed by a meeting with the two leaders and Trump. Leaders of more than 30 countries, including Japan and Canada, held a virtual meeting to discuss next steps. A spokesperson for Putin said Russia had not yet committed to meetings with Zelensky and Trump.

A global focus on elephants

On August 12, World Elephant Day was marked across the globe. The day was established in 2012 to raise awareness and support for Asian and African elephants, whose populations are in danger due to habitat loss, climate change, and human activity.

Today, there are fewer than 415,000 wild elephants in Africa and fewer than 50,000 in Asia. African forest elephants are considered critically endangered, while African savannah elephants and Asian elephants are classified as endangered. Wildlife experts say that without protection, these species could become extinct.

The theme of this year's World Elephant Day was "Mothers and Matriarchs," which honored the "wisdom, memory, and leadership" of female elephants, organizers said. To mark the day, Bannerughatta Biological Park in Bengaluru, India, paid tribute to elephant care workers and released elephant-themed postcards. The San Diego Zoo in California used the occasion to announce a new elephant exhibit, which will open in 2026.

African elephants

FUN FIRST
The first World Games were held in 1981 in California, with 1,893 athletes from 58 countries competing in 15 sports.

World Games wrap up in China

The 2025 World Games concluded on August 17 in Chengdu, China, after 11 days of competition. About 4,000 athletes from around the world competed in 256 medal events in 34 sports, including lacrosse, waterski and wakeboard, flag football, and speed skating. This year's games featured powerboating and cheerleading for the first time.

The World Games include sports not featured in the Olympics and give some of the world's best athletes a chance to showcase their skills on a global stage. They are run by the International World Games Association (IWGA), with support from the International Olympic Committee. Like the Olympics, the World Games are held every four years in a host city. They take place the year after the Summer Olympic Games.

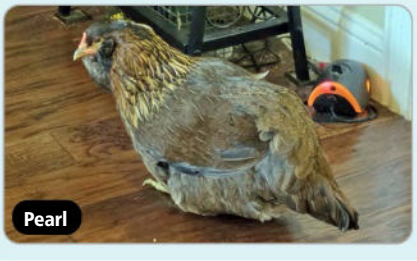
At this year's World Games, China finished with the most medals overall with 64, as well as the most gold medals with 36. The US won 28 medals, including 11 gold. American athletes won gold in sports including disc golf, softball, and trampoline gymnastics. Spanish speed skater Jhoan Sebastian Guzman Bitar and German swimmer Nina Holt had the most individual gold medals at this year's games, with five each.

The 2029 World Games will be held in Karlsruhe, Germany. At this year's closing ceremony, the World Games flag was handed over to the mayor of Karlsruhe and German athletes. "Over these unforgettable days, Chengdu has not only hosted the world—it has made the world feel at home," IWGA president José Perurena said at the closing ceremony.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A CHARMING CHICKEN

A 14-year-old hen is officially the world's oldest chicken. Pearl, who lives in Texas, enjoys time in the yard, watching TV, and getting neck scratches from her humans. The happy hen "just has a love for life," said her owner.

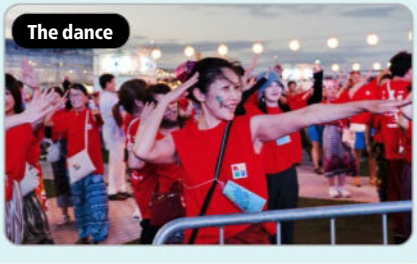

Pearl

KIND WORDS

A boy in Illinois is brightening people's days at his free compliments stand. Ethan Wargo, age 9, has given a variety of compliments to dozens of passersby about everything from their shoes to their names and jobs. "It makes people feel good," Wargo said. "It also makes me feel good."

UPHOLDING TRADITION

When 3,946 people from 62 countries performed a traditional Japanese dance—called the Bon dance—in Osaka, Japan, they set records as the largest group and most nationalities to do it at the same time. The dance is part of Obon season, which honors ancestors and celebrates summer.


The dance

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (2); NINTENDO; IWGA; SHIN SUZUKI; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5); SONYA HULL; BRANDON WARGO; GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

AMAZING COLLECTION
The total number of objects, works of art, and specimens at the Smithsonian is estimated to be nearly 157 million.

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum

The Smithsonian's founder

James Smithson (above) was born in 1765 in France and later became a British citizen and studied chemistry. Before his death in 1829, he expressed a wish for the US to use his money to create the Smithsonian Institution for the purpose of spreading knowledge. The institution was created in 1846.

Smithsonian museums to undergo review

On August 12, President Donald Trump said his administration is launching an intensive review of eight museums that are part of the Smithsonian Institution. The Smithsonian is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex and is operated by the US government.

What happened?

White House officials sent a letter to Lonnie Bunch, the head of the Smithsonian, informing him that the museums to be reviewed are the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, National Air and Space Museum, National Museum of African American History and Culture, National Museum of American History, National Museum of the American Indian, National Museum of Natural History, National Portrait Gallery, and Smithsonian American Art Museum. These museums will have their current exhibitions, as well as plans for future exhibits, assessed for "tone, historical framing, and alignment with American ideals." Any language the administration considers problematic must be changed within 120 days, the White House said.

Why is this significant?

The review is part of an effort to remove material that criticizes the US from the nation's museums and parks. Trump is seeking to align them with his view of the way history should be interpreted, including how race and equality are discussed, ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026. The Smithsonian and other similar institutions have historically operated independently from the White House, so this is a departure.

How did people react?

Conservative organizations said the review is necessary because the Smithsonian portrays America in a "poor light," said Mike Gonzalez of the Heritage Foundation, which supports Trump. But many historians said it is important to present events accurately, no matter how the country is portrayed. The free speech group PEN America expressed concern that the review "will rewrite history and strip truth from exhibits."

What will happen next?

The Smithsonian said it will cooperate with the review but emphasized its commitment to presenting an accurate historical record. The White House said that if the Smithsonian complies, the review process could be complete by early 2026.

WORD OF THE WEEK

PTEROSAUR

Many dinosaurs are named for their physical characteristics. The flying reptile known as a "pterosaur" had wings that were supported by a very long fourth finger. Its name comes from the Greek words *pteron*, meaning "wing," and *sauros* ("lizard").

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

August 26, 1873

First US public kindergarten approved

On August 26, 1873, the school board of St. Louis, Missouri, approved the first public kindergarten in the US. Educator Susan Blow brought the idea to the US after she toured Germany and learned about "kindergartens." Hers began in 1873. By 1880, more than 9,000 children in St. Louis attended kindergarten. Today, about 3.7 million children are enrolled in US kindergarten programs.

Site of the first US kindergarten

Rocky Mountain National Park

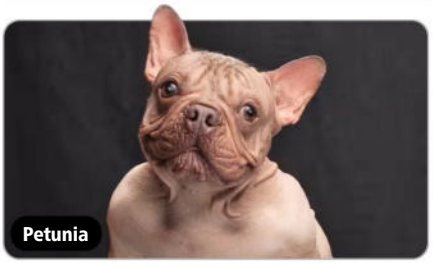
Park becomes more accessible

Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado is making upgrades to increase its accessibility. Visitors can reserve one of four all-terrain wheelchairs, which work on rocky trails and snowy paths. More than 130 picnic tables that accommodate wheelchairs are being installed, and a new bus transports people with mobility issues. "Our job is to steward the park for everyone," said the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, which helped fund the changes.

Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift to release new album

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift announced that her 12th studio album, *The Life of a Showgirl,* will be released on October 3. It will include 12 tracks and will feature a song with fellow pop star Sabrina Carpenter. Swift's nearly two-hour appearance on the *New Heights* podcast on August 13 to talk about the album has since generated more than 500 million views across all social media platforms.


Petunia

Exciting win for rescue dog

Petunia, a hairless rescue bulldog from Oregon, was named the "World's Ugliest Dog" at the Sonoma County Fair in California. The annual contest is held to showcase dogs that have overcome adversity and are beautiful in their own way, organizers said, and to increase pet adoption. Petunia, age 2, beat out nine dogs to take this year's prize. "She loves all the attention," her owner said.

The Ohio State Fair

FAMOUS GUEST
In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt became the first US President to visit a state fair when he gave a speech at North Carolina's event.

State fairs welcome visitors across US

The annual tradition of state fairs has kicked off across the US, with some breaking attendance records and others marking milestones.

Nearly 2,000 state and county fairs are held each year in the summer and early fall. The first state fair was held in Syracuse, New York, in 1841 to promote agriculture and manufacturing. Since then, fairs have expanded to offer music performances, livestock shows and competitions, carnival rides, and distinctive food.

This year's Iowa State Fair in Des Moines had its third highest number of total visitors ever, with 1.16 million, as well as record turnout for its Grandstand music event. It also celebrated the 100th anniversary of its fiddle competition, with each contestant playing a hoedown, waltz, or other tune from memory for a chance to win prizes. Washington's Puyallup Fair marked its 125th anniversary with a 20-day event, and Pennsylvania's York State Fair increased its attendance from last year.

The State Fair of Texas in Dallas, the largest in the US with 2.25 million annual visitors, is known for its creative food competitions. This year's finalists included deep-fried deli tacos and a cookie chaos milkshake. At the Minnesota State Fair in Falcon Heights, more than 40 new foods were introduced, including a Fawaffle—a Middle Eastern chickpea fritter pressed into a waffle iron.

While butter sculptures are a famous attraction at many state fairs, a cheese sculpture drew awe this year at the Upper Peninsula State Fair, Michigan's oldest state fair in Escanaba. Visitors watched as food artist Sarah Kaufman transformed a 1,600-pound block of cheese into a sculpture depicting a cow and children.

Candy apples at the Texas State Fair

Beyond the festivities, fairs are a source of pride, reflecting a state's culture and history. While visiting the York State Fair, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro spoke about the event's significance. "Fairs like this are more than just tradition," he said. "Agriculture is at the heart of who we are."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Pig escapes birthday party, runs to Illinois high school" *UPI*

DANIEL OWEN/THE OHIO STATE FAIR; KEVIN BROWN; GETTY IMAGES (3); COURTESY SONOMA-MARIN FAIR; ON LEFT PAGE: NASM; GETTY IMAGES (2); DES PERES SCHOOL

Workers on strike at an airport

Canada
Flight attendants go on strike

On August 16, about 10,000 flight attendants employed by Air Canada, the nation's largest airline, went on strike (refusing to work as a form of protest). Their demands included salary raises and payment for work they do before takeoff and after landing. When *The Week Junior* went to press on August 19, the flights of about 500,000 passengers had been canceled but the airline and the workers' union said they had reached a deal.

Houses in central Mexico

Mexico
Report finds fewer people in poverty

The Mexican government released a report showing that more than 8.3 million people in the country were lifted out of poverty between 2022 and 2024. It attributed the change to two policies introduced since 2018: tripling the minimum wage paid to workers and introducing programs to help seniors, students, and people with disabilities pay for everyday items. Despite the improvements, one in three Mexicans still live in poverty.

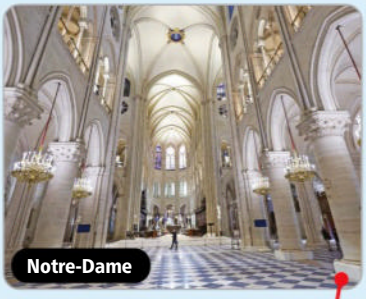
The painted houses

Burkina Faso
World Heritage Site at risk

Locals are concerned that the Royal Court of Tiébélé, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, may cease to exist because of climate change. The 500-year-old site, created by the Kassena people, features traditional houses painted with cultural symbols. People are trying to restore them, but high rainfall and a lack of natural materials, like wood from native trees, have disrupted the work.

Paris, France
Landmark regains popularity

Notre-Dame Cathedral has welcomed more than 7 million tourists since it reopened last December after a devastating 2019 fire. By the end of this year, 12 million visitors are expected. This means Notre-Dame will once again be France's most visited monument, overtaking Sacré-Cœur, a Paris church that received 9 million visitors in 2024.


Notre-Dame

Jordan
Heat wave breaks temperature records

Jordan has experienced record-breaking temperatures in recent days—and nights. On August 13, the city of Aqaba recorded a high of 121° F for the first time. While desert nights are usually much cooler, temperatures did not drop below 95° F during the night of August 11. Experts say hot nights increase health risks because they prevent people's bodies from recovering after scorching days.

A beach in Aqaba

GETTY IMAGES (6); ALAMY (3); SHUTTERSTOCK

Bratwurst sausages

Germany
Battle of the bratwurst

The German states of Bavaria and Thuringia are in a dispute over who invented the bratwurst sausage. Until recently, Wurstkuchl restaurant in Bavaria claimed the title, with records dating back to 1378. Now a document from 1269 found in Thuringia suggests that a food stall there may have been the origin. Historians are trying to find out the truth.

Two robots kickboxing

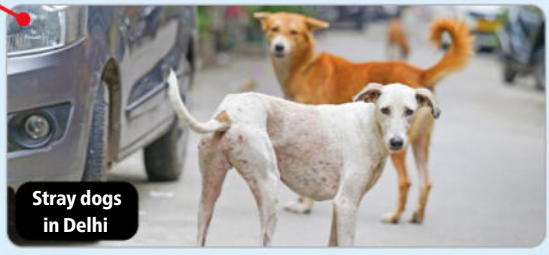
Beijing, China
Robots compete at sporting event

Beijing hosted the first World Humanoid Robot Games, where robots competed in sports such as kickboxing, soccer, dance, and track and field. China aims to be a world leader in robotics, and this event tested technologies that could be used in homes and workplaces in the future. While some robots wowed spectators with their athletic abilities, others crashed or fell over. During one race, competition was so intense that a robot's head fell off.

Myanmar's leader, Min Aung Hlaing

Myanmar
Elections announced for December

Myanmar's junta (military group that has taken control of a country by force) announced that it will hold its first election since it took power in 2021. Voting is set to take place on December 28. Holding an election could be difficult, however, because fighting between rebel groups has affected large areas of the country. Critics say the election will not be fair and is merely designed to make the leaders appear lawful.


Stray dogs in Delhi

Delhi, India
Dogs to be taken off streets

Delhi's 1 million stray dogs must be caught and moved to animal shelters, India's top court has ruled. The goal is to reduce cases of rabies, a serious illness that can be passed to humans through dogs' saliva. About 36% of global rabies deaths happen in India. Critics say there aren't enough shelters and officials should focus on measures like preventing stray dogs from having puppies.

Khartoum, Sudan
Vaccination effort launches to stop disease

A 10-day cholera vaccination campaign has been launched in Sudan's capital city, Khartoum. Cholera is a disease that spreads when people eat food or water contaminated with Vibrio cholerae bacteria. Since July 2024, about 2,100 deaths from the disease have been reported in the country. Officials hope to give the vaccine (medicine that prevents an illness) to as many as 150,000 people.

A child gets the vaccine.

Should boats have speed limits?

Some people want to move fast on open water, but others say that's not a great idea.

What you need to know

- **Many states and cities have laws restricting how fast boats can go, but only in certain areas.**
- **Speed limits are typically in place near wildlife, shore, and swimming areas. For example, in California, boats are restricted to 5 miles per hour within 100 feet of swimmers.**
- **A common speed restriction on boats is that they cannot go fast enough to produce a wake in the water.**
- **Recreational boats can reach speeds of up to 115 miles per hour.**

WOW! In 1978, Ken Warby from Australia set a record for the fastest speed ever recorded on water, at 317.58 miles per hour.

In 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, the US agency tasked with protecting Earth's oceans) proposed a speed limit of about 11 miles per hour for boats between 35 and 65 feet long, up to 90 miles off the Atlantic coast. The agency said it was trying to protect the endangered North Atlantic right whale, which can be struck and killed by boats. Many people in the fishing and boating industries fought the change, saying it was strict and unnecessary, and NOAA withdrew the proposal in January. Some still say all boats are dangerous at high speeds, for people and marine life. What do you think? Should boats have speed limits?

Yes—help people and animals

Speeding boats have been known to hit ocean animals, like the North Atlantic right whale. These beautiful creatures are endangered, and if they died out, it would be a huge loss to the world. Isn't it worth slowing down to protect them? Speed limits on boats also help keep people safe. Just like cars, the faster a boat is going, the harder it is to control. High speeds can lead to accidents and also produce wakes that make conditions dangerous for other boats and swimmers in the water. There's also the matter of common courtesy. Oceans or lakes should be calm, peaceful environments where everyone can relax and have fun.

No—this isn't the right solution

Protecting marine animals is important, but broad speed limits are not a practical way to accomplish that. North Atlantic right whales only migrate along certain paths at specific times of year, so there should be temporary, limited restrictions, not a one-size-fits-all rule. And there are many better ways to protect wildlife. Technology like radar and underwater cameras tell boaters where whales are so they can avoid collisions. Many people rely on boats for their livelihood. At slower speeds, ferries would make fewer trips, fishing and sightseeing guides couldn't take as many clients out on the water, and fishers would have smaller hauls.

YES Three reasons boats should have speed limits

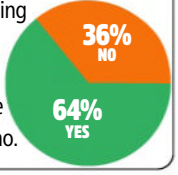
1. **Speeding boats pose a safety risk to endangered and threatened animals, which deserve to be protected.**
2. **Speed limits for boats also keep people safe, just like speed limits for cars do.**
3. **Going too fast and creating a wake is rude to other people who want to enjoy swimming in calm waters.**

NO Three reasons boats should not have speed limits

1. **One standard speed limit is too broad, impractical, and ineffective.**
2. **There are many new technologies that can help boaters look out for marine animals and slow down when necessary.**
3. **Speed limits would make it harder for people and businesses that rely on boats, like fishers or ferries, to earn a living.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if all schools should start after Labor Day. Nearly two thirds of you said yes to going back to class after the holiday, while the rest said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think boats should have speed limits or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

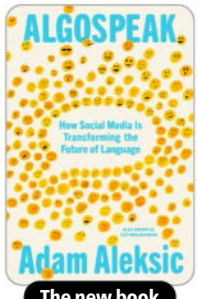
The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

A love of language

Adam Aleksic is making internet slang understandable for all ages.

Generation Alpha (people born between 2010–2024) and Gen Z (those born between 1997–2012) have their own slang, and Adam Aleksic has become a sensation on social media for explaining what those words mean. He's taken his expertise offline with his first book, *Algospeak: How Social Media Is Transforming the Future of Language*.



The new book

Aleksic, age 24, grew up in Albany, New York. His curiosity for language was sparked as a child when he read a book about word origins. He went on to major in linguistics (the study of human language) at Harvard University. During his final semester, a friend encouraged him to post educational videos online.

Today, more than 2.3 million followers watch Aleksic's "Etymology Nerd" videos on TikTok and Instagram, where he explains everything from "rizz" (meaning charisma) to "delulu" (delusional). He also gives lectures and visits middle schools to talk about language with students. He told *The Week Junior* that his favorite word to break down is "skibidi." It means something is absurd or silly, and the word's roots trace back to 1960s scat singing and the name of the 1970s cartoon *Scooby-Doo*.

With *Algospeak*, Aleksic said he liked being able to provide longer explanations about words than he can with his online videos. He's already working on a second book about memes.

"Language has always been about who we are as people, and the words we use express that," Aleksic said. "When kids are using words that adults aren't familiar with, they're building their own identity."

Adam Aleksic

WORD WIZARD
The 16th-century playwright William Shakespeare introduced over 1,700 words into the English language, including alligator, gossip, and puppy dog.

Writer is recognized

Ana Maria Gonçalves has become the first Black woman elected to the Brazilian Academy of Letters, which is Brazil's most prestigious literary institution, founded in 1897. Gonçalves, who was raised in a small town in Brazil, writes about race and history. She's best known for her novel *Um defeito de cor*, which depicts the injustices of the 18th-century slave trade in Brazil. Gonçalves hopes her inclusion in the academy will open doors for more women and people of color: "I'm the first Black woman, but I can't be the only one," she said.

Ana Maria Gonçalves

Patrick Schlott

Creating connection

Poor cellular connection can be a problem in rural Vermont, so electrical engineer Patrick Schlott came up with a solution to keep people connected. He restores old pay phones and installs them in public places, such as general stores and libraries, where people can use them to make calls for free. The phones work through an internet connection, which Schlott covers the cost of. He said he is glad to save pay phones from landfills, while doing what he loves—fixing old technology. "To hear it ring, to pick it up and have a dial tone—there's real power in that," he told the Associated Press.

OVERHEARD

"There are no limits for excellence. It's all about what's in your head and how much you're able to put into it."
Tennis legend Venus Williams, age 45, on becoming the oldest player to win a Women's Tennis Association singles match in more than 20 years

REUTERS; BOOK: COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; TÂNIA RÊGO/AGÊNCIA BRASIL; ASSOCIATED PRESS; GETTY IMAGES

SEA SWIMMERS
There are more than 700 trillion adult krill in the Southern Ocean.

Female copepods under a microscope

Fishing for krill

Companies fish for krill because they are used in many products, such as health supplements and fish food. In 2020, fishing companies caught about half a million tons of krill. Activists are concerned that taking too many of the tiny creatures could affect the food chain in the ocean.

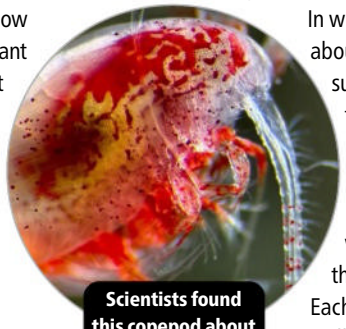
A krill-fishing ship

The ocean's tiny climate heroes

The ocean is home to masses of small floating organisms called zooplankton. Some are as tiny as .04 inches long, and they spend most of their lives asleep, deep in the ocean. New research has shined a light on how these little creatures are important for helping to protect the planet against global warming.

The research, led by scientists from China, the UK, and Canada, focused on the Southern Ocean (also known as the Antarctic Ocean). The Southern Ocean is about one sixteenth of Earth's total ocean area.

The team studied types of zooplankton called copepods, krill, and salps. All of these creatures eat tiny plant-like organisms called phytoplankton, which live near the sea's surface and absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gases trap the Sun's heat in the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.



Scientists found this copepod about 1,640 feet deep.

In winter, the zooplankton sink about 1,600 feet below the surface of the ocean. There, they slowly breathe out the carbon dioxide from the phytoplankton they have eaten, releasing it into the water. This process is called the "seasonal migrant pump." Each year, it transports more than 70 million tons of carbon to areas far below the ocean's surface.

Because the zooplankton are so deep down, the gas they release takes many years—sometimes even centuries—to rise to the surface and enter Earth's atmosphere. Angus Atkinson, who worked on the study, told BBC News that without the seasonal migrant pump, the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would be double what they are now.

Guang Yang, another researcher, said zooplankton are "unsung heroes" of carbon storage. The team hopes the study will encourage scientists to include zooplankton in their calculations of how much carbon is stored around the world. It also highlights the importance of protecting the Southern Ocean, where krill are under threat from fishing (see box above). Environmental activists say people should be careful not to damage krill populations, which are not only a food source for whales, seals, penguins, and seabirds but also help fight climate change.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Chimney Rock State Park, North Carolina

Chimney Rock State Park is named for a 315-foot-tall rock spire, which visitors can access by hiking to the top or taking an elevator. Hikers can also enjoy Hickory Nut Falls (shown at left), one of the tallest waterfalls in the eastern US. Flowers like rhododendrons, daylilies, and bright-colored jewelweed bloom along the trails. The park is also known for its guided bird walks, on which many birders attempt to spot cerulean and Swainson's warblers. The Great Woodland Adventure Trail highlights the creatures that live in the forest with kid-friendly discovery stations and live animals.

A cerulean warbler

DID YOU KNOW?
Although kakapos can't fly, they're excellent at climbing trees.

A kakapo

Preparing to boost kakapo numbers

The kakapo population is set to receive a boost next year during the breeding season of the critically endangered birds, which happens every two to four years.

The kakapo is the only species of flightless parrot in the world. Fewer than 250 of the birds exist, and all of them live in New Zealand. They mostly live on islands that are free of non-native predators like rats and cats, which were brought into the country by people.

Efforts to boost kakapo populations are challenging because the birds don't breed every year. Instead, their breeding season happens at the same time that the rimu tree produces large amounts of fruit and seeds—known as a mast event. Mast events are triggered by the previous summer's temperatures, and one of these is expected to take place in 2026. Kakapos eat rimu berries, which contain the nourishment the birds need for laying eggs and feeding their chicks.

To prepare for next year's event, experts are removing non-native predators from New Zealand's Rakiura Island. They plan to then reintroduce kakapos to the island in time for breeding season.

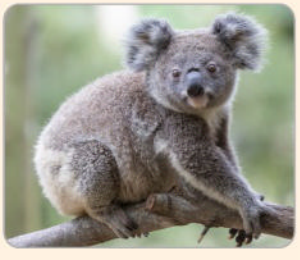
Animal of the week: Hoffman's two-toed sloth

Researchers captured the first-ever footage of a baby Hoffman's two-toed sloth farting in a bucket of water, disproving a long-held theory that sloths do not fart. One of the researchers said that sloths are actually incredibly gassy.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 20 years in the wild, 49 in captivity
- **HABITAT:** Treetops in South American forests
- **SIZE:** 21 to 29 inches,10 to 20 pounds
- **DIET:** Leaves, twigs, and fruits
- **FUN FACT:** Blue-green algae often grows on their fur, helping them blend in with the leaves.

Good week / Bad week

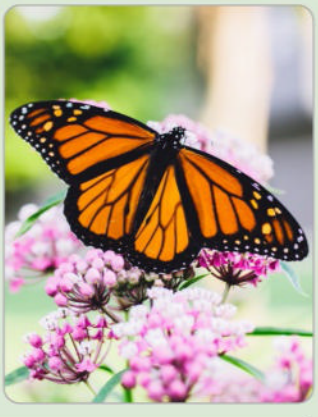
Mountain yellow-legged frogs
The Los Angeles Zoo released 643 southern mountain yellow-legged frogs and tadpoles into mountain streams in California as part of an effort to save the species. More than 6,000 amphibians have been released since 2006.



Koalas
An attempt to reintroduce 13 koalas to the wild failed, and Australian officials took the remaining six koalas back into care. Experts are trying to figure out what went wrong, such as bad weather or a lack of available food.

ASK AN EXPERT: "Why do monarch butterflies like milkweed?" Fiona, 7, Washington, DC

Zack Lemann
Curator of animal collections, Audubon Insectarium



Young monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed leaves. These are poisonous to most animals—but not monarchs. Chemicals from the leaves defend them against predators and stay in the insect even when it transforms into a butterfly! Adults drink nectar from many kinds of flowers.

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the Audubon Insectarium at audubonnatureinstitute.org.

GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: PROF DANIEL J MAYOR @OCEANPLANKTON (2); ALAMY (2); GETTY IMAGES

Ancient treasures in a

A small Pacific island is known for its nearly 1,000 monumental statues.

Rapa Nui, commonly known as Easter Island, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and has been a source of fascination for centuries.

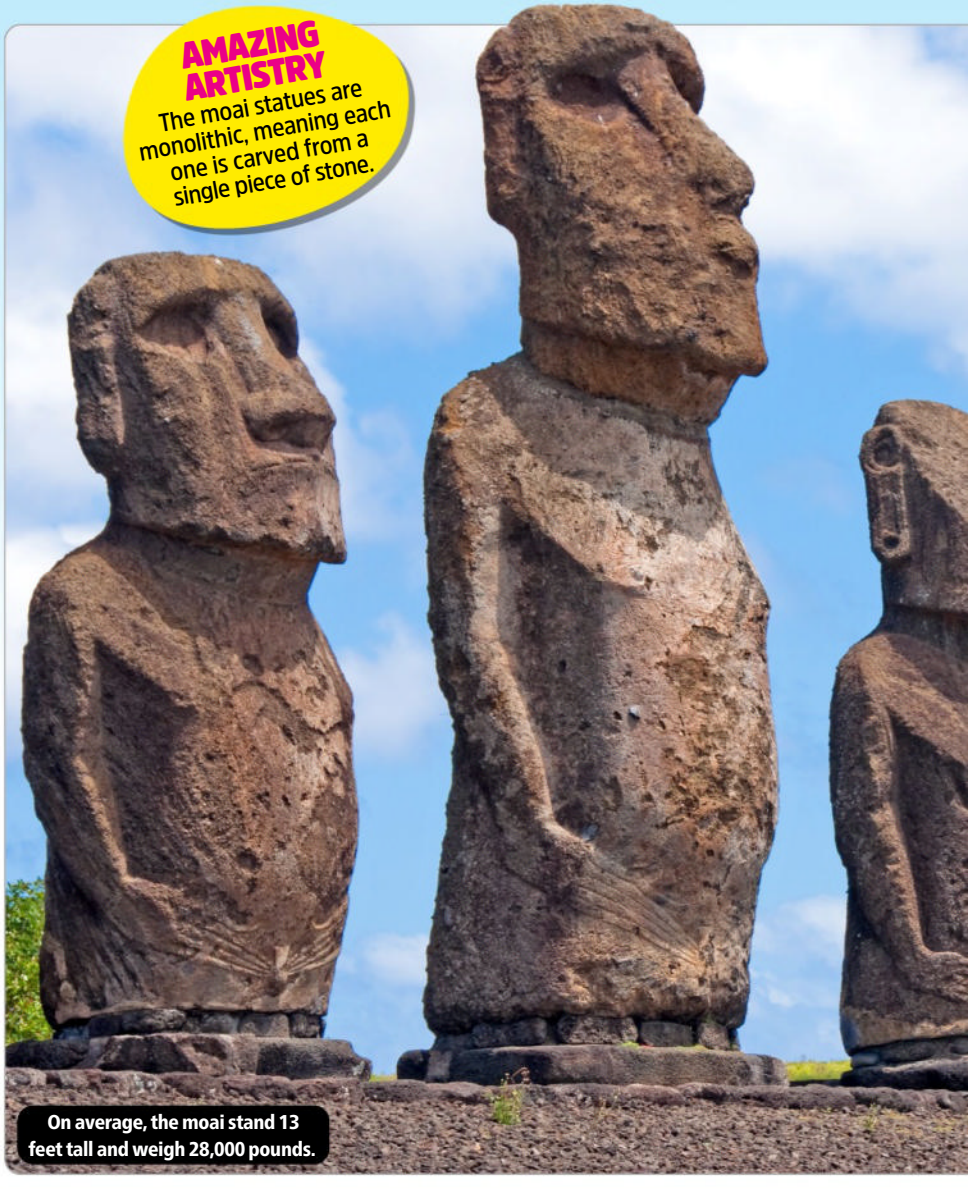
Where is the island?

Rapa Nui (pronounced "ra-pah NOO-ee") is one of the most remote inhabited places in the world. It's located in the Pacific Ocean about 2,200 miles from Chile in South America and is also the easternmost outpost of Polynesia, a vast region in the Pacific that includes Hawaii and New Zealand. The triangular island, measuring about 63 square miles, was formed millions of years ago by volcanic activity and is famous for its giant—and mysterious—human statues called moai ("moe-eye").

Native inhabitants

Human history

The island was first settled in about 700 to 800 CE by people from other Pacific islands. Their descendants were known as Rapa Nui, which is also the island's Indigenous (original) name. On April 5, 1722, an Easter Sunday, a Dutch explorer named Jacob Roggeveen came upon the island. He named it Paasch-Eyland, Dutch for Easter Island. In 1862, slave traders from Peru abducted islanders and spread non-native diseases, such as smallpox, which led to a significant population decline. In 1888, Chile took control of the island, seizing land from inhabitants for sheep farming. In 1966, the nation appointed a governor to the


AMAZING ARTISTRY
The moai statues are monolithic, meaning each one is carved from a single piece of stone.

On average, the moai stand 13 feet tall and weigh 28,000 pounds.

Sights around the island

Pukao

Some of the moai wear what appear to be top hats, called pukao. They were made by carving red volcanic rock and were placed on select moai.

Petroglyphs

Ancient petroglyphs (rock carvings) created by islanders can be found on boulders, caves, and other surfaces throughout Rapa Nui. Many depict human faces, animals, and abstract designs. There are more than 4,000 documented petroglyphs on the island.

SHUTTERSTOCK; GETTY IMAGES (8)

remote world

SECRET PASSAGES
Rapa Nui has a complex system of volcanic caves formed by ancient lava tubes.
ISLAND COMMUNITY
More than 90% of Rapa Nui's population lives in Hanga Roa, the island's capital and only town.

Rano Kau

The island was formed by the eruptions of three main volcanoes, including Rano Kau. Located in Rapa Nui National Park, Rano Kau has the island's largest volcanic crater (right), which is about 1,000 feet deep and holds a freshwater lake. The volcanoes are now extinct.

Erecting a statue

The famous moai

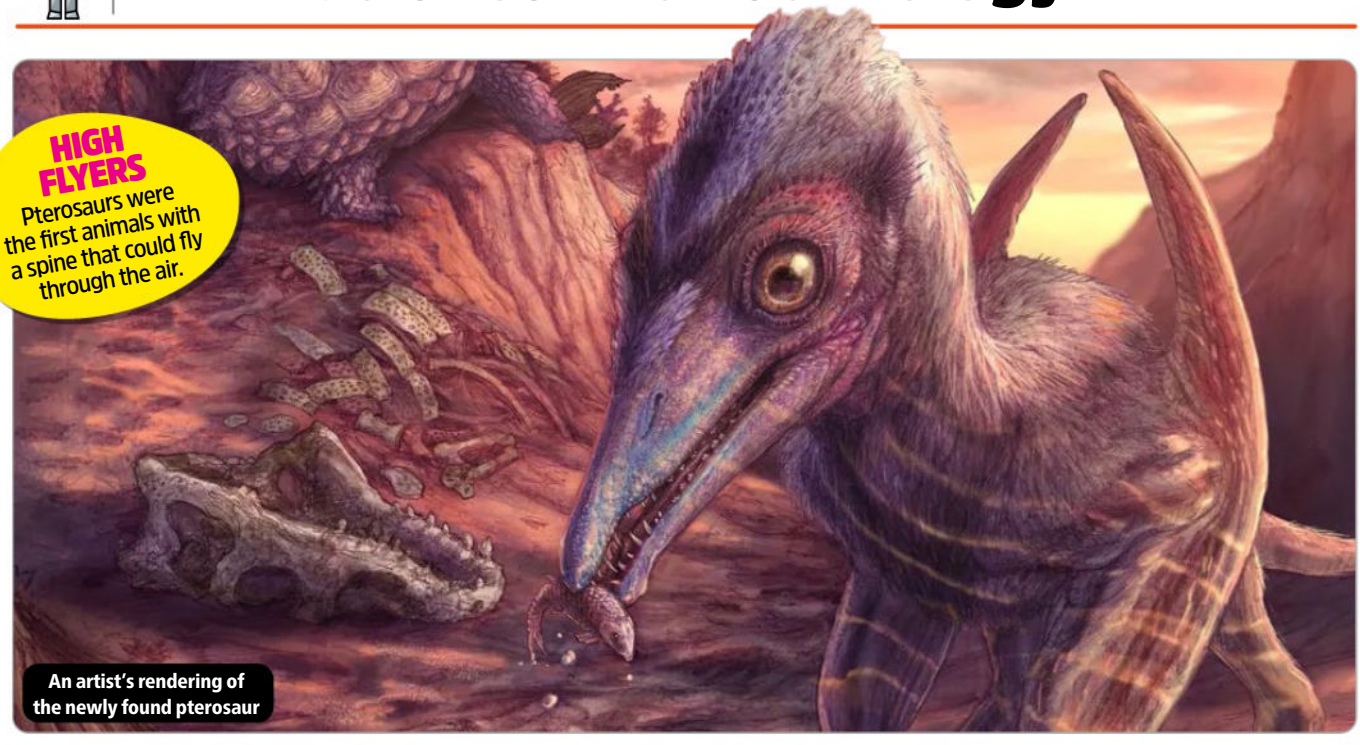
Between 1250 and 1500 CE, the inhabitants of Rapa Nui constructed the majority of the nearly 1,000 moai on the island's southeastern coast. Many moai were erected on ceremonial stone platforms called ahus. While some of the massive statues are situated entirely above ground, others look like huge heads emerging from the Earth, with their bodies hidden below the surface. The moai were carved by hand from volcanic tuff, a type of rock formed from compressed volcanic ash. For many years, mystery surrounded how the statues were erected. Modern research suggests that the statues may have been hoisted upright with the assistance of ropes and levers, then rocked side to side to "walk" them into position. Experts believe that the Rapa Nui people built the statues to honor their ancestral chiefs and embody their mana (spiritual energy).

Rano Raraku

The island today

About 7,700 people, half with Rapa Nui ancestry, currently live on the island. Spanish is spoken widely, and many islanders also speak Rapanui, the island's native language. The majority of the moai are located in Rapa Nui National Park. There, visitors can tour Rano Raraku, a quarry where moai were carved from volcanic rock, and see unfinished moai on its slopes (see photo above). In the 1980s, fewer than 5,000 people visited the island annually. Tourism has since swelled to 100,000 visitors per year. Stricter rules, such as a requirement to stay on marked trails, have been set so history is preserved for future generations.

** It is a spearhead that was used as a tool to carve moai statues from volcanic rock.*



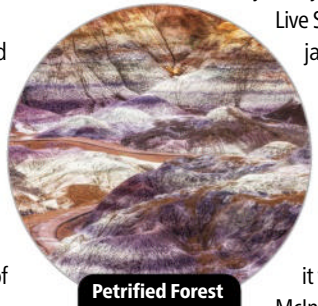
HIGH FLYERS Pterosaurs were the first animals with a spine that could fly through the air.

An artist's rendering of the newly found pterosaur

Fossil reveals a tiny pterosaur

Pterosaurs were winged reptiles that dominated the skies during the age of dinosaurs. Sometimes called pterodactyls, they could be huge, with wingspans of up to 36 feet. According to a new study, however, not all pterosaurs were big. In fact, a recently discovered fossil was the size of a small seagull. And at 209 million years old, it was also the oldest pterosaur ever found in North America.

The small pterosaur was found among more than 1,000 fossils in a bed of volcanic ash in the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. Other fossils nearby included giant amphibians, freshwater sharks, armored crocodile-like creatures, and one of the oldest known turtles.



Petrified Forest National Park

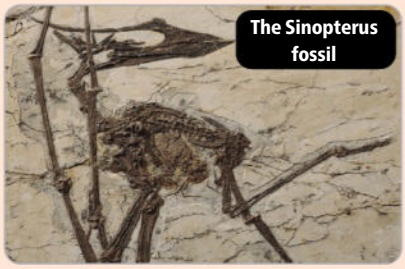
A team of scientists first discovered the site in 2011. They think a flood washed over the animals, covered them in sediment and ash, and preserved them. Most of the fossils were small and delicate, so rather than excavating them there, scientists removed large chunks of sediment and took them to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Experts spent thousands of hours carefully extracting the fossils, including the jaw of the pterosaur.

Ben Kligman, the study's lead author and a paleontologist (scientist who studies the past through fossils) at the Smithsonian, initially doubted that the fossil was from a pterosaur. Only one other early member of the species had been found in North America, and none had ever been buried in river sediment. "When I finally examined the jaw, my doubts were put to rest," he told Live Science. "The distinctive teeth and jaw anatomy was unmistakably from a pterosaur."

The team named the little pterosaur Eotephradactylus mcintireae, or "ash-winged dawn goddess." Its name includes references to where it was found and to Suzanne McIntire, a volunteer who first uncovered it. The name also refers to Eos, the Greek goddess of the dawn, because the creature existed at the beginning, or dawn, of pterosaurs' time on the planet.

The fossil group provides the first glimpse at a community of animals like this living together during the final days of the Triassic period. The Triassic ended about 201 million years ago with a massive extinction event that scientists believe was likely triggered by volcanic activity.

The pterosaur diet



The Sinopterus fossil

After years of debate over the diet of pterosaurs, a team of paleontologists in China and Brazil found the first evidence that the winged creatures may have been plant eaters. The scientists examined a fossil of a species of pterosaur called Sinopterus that was discovered in northeastern China. The creature's stomach and its contents were well preserved, which is extremely rare. They were able to study it using high-resolution x-rays.

The stomach contained phytoliths (small mineral deposits that form in some plants) and quartz crystals. Quartz is often found in gastroliths. Also known as "stomach stones," these are small stones that many living animals, including birds and lizards, eat to help break down tough foods like plants.

AI is changing how we speak to each other

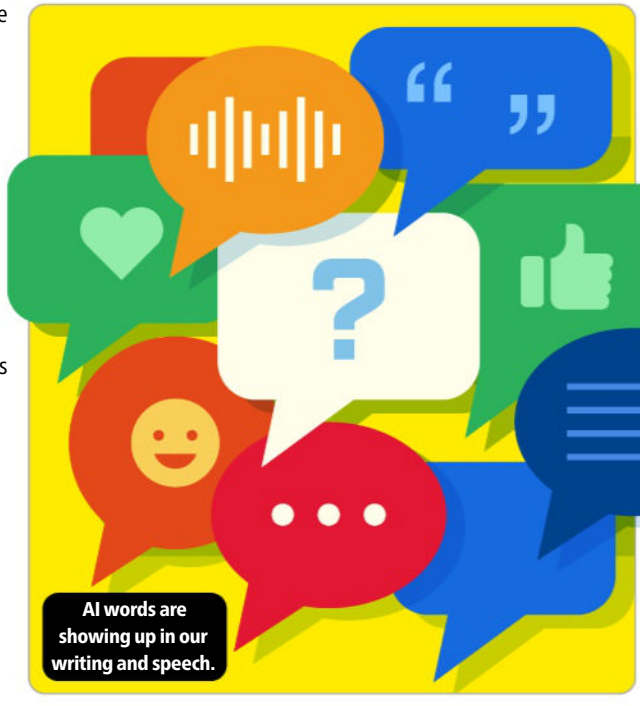
Artificial intelligence (AI, when a computer imitates human learning) is used in many aspects of daily life, from online searches to medical diagnoses. A new study found that AI is also changing how we talk and could have a lasting effect on human language.

Researchers looked at the AI platform ChatGPT, which was first released in 2022 and has hundreds of millions of users. They asked ChatGPT to edit millions of pages of writing—including emails, essays, and academic and news articles—to polish and clarify the text. Then the team searched through the revised text and identified words that ChatGPT had added frequently, like "delve," "realm," and "meticulous."

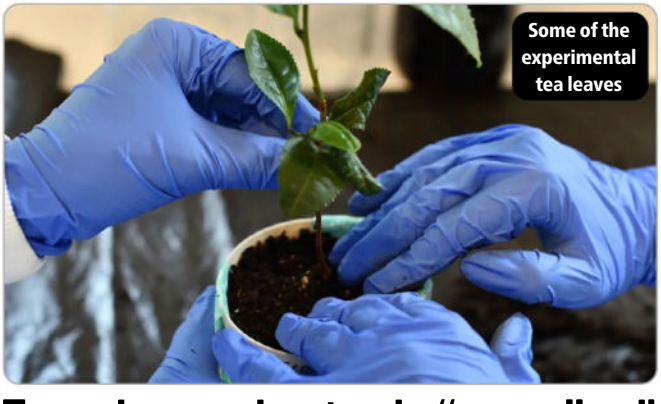
DID YOU KNOW?
About a third of US adults, and more than half of adults under age 30, said they have used ChatGPT.

Next the researchers tracked the use of these "GPT words" in hundreds of thousands of YouTube videos and podcast episodes created before and after ChatGPT's release. The words were noticeably more common after the release of ChatGPT, in both scripted videos or podcasts and free-flowing conversations.

One of the study's authors, Levin Brinkmann, said, "The patterns that are stored in AI technology seem to be transmitting back to the human mind." This could lead to AI having an increasing influence on our word choices and lives. "That carries the possibility of changing our culture," said study co-author Hiromu Yakura.



AI words are showing up in our writing and speech.



Some of the experimental tea leaves

Team is growing tea in "space" soil

Scientists are looking into ways of growing fresh food in space to create a reliable source of nutrition for astronauts who venture there. One team of researchers at the University of Kent, in the UK, is furthering this mission by attempting to grow tea in space-like conditions.

The team planted young tea plants in soil that has been prepared to mimic (copy) the surface of the Moon and Mars. They have also made sure that light, humidity, and temperature levels are similar to those in space.

As the plants grow, researchers will compare the "space" tea plants to normal ones. They will also test the leaves of the space plants for any harmful substances.

Nigel Mason, who is leading the research, said a cup of tea would be the "ultimate comfort for those looking to set up a new home" in space. The results of the experiment are expected in September.

AMAZING INVENTION

A camping stove that folds up

The FireNest

A portable camping stove with foldable sides makes outdoor cooking easy. The FireNest is made of sturdy titanium and is small enough to fit in the palm of a hand. It sets up and breaks down in seconds and is less than an inch thick when folded.

The FireNest includes three cooking panels for searing, grilling, and boiling and can be used with multiple fuel types, including firewood. Campers can cook right on the panels or in a pot or pan they put on top of them. The stove's makers expect it to be available in the fall.

GETTY IMAGES; UNIVERSITY OF KENT; CAMPRIT; ON LEFT PAGE: BRIAN ENGH; GETTY IMAGES; ZHANG X, JIANG S, CHENG X AND WANG X

Photos of the week

2025 MANGROVE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS FINALISTS

Branching out
Satwika Satria shot this photo of a monkey eating fruit in Indonesia.

Under the sea
This image of a blacktip reef shark in Palau was taken by Kiliii Yuyan.

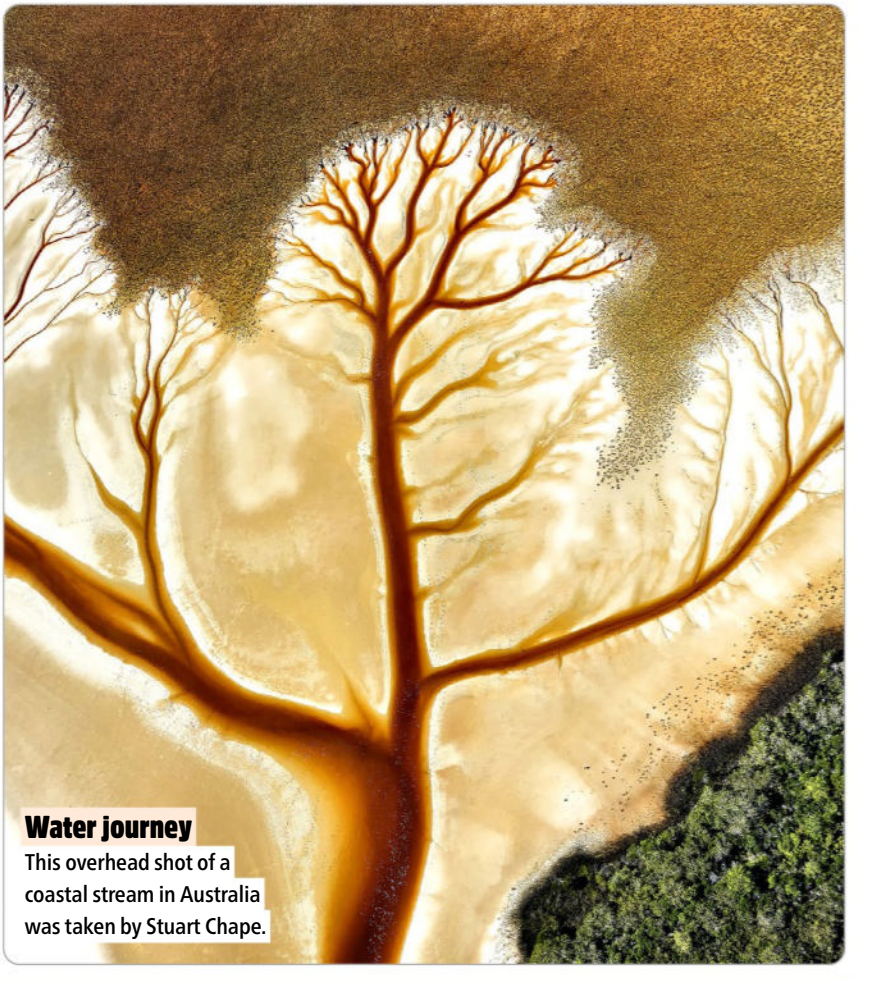
RAMPRASAD DUTTA; KILIII YUYAN; GWI BIN LIM; IBRAHIM ALSHWAMIN; STUART CHAPE; SATWIKA SATRIA

Photos of the week

Think pink
Ibrahim Alshwamin took this shot of flamingos in Saudi Arabia.

Golden glow
This photo of mangrove trees at dusk in Indonesia was taken by Gwi Bin Lim.

Eye sight
Ramprasad Dutta captured a close-up of a mudskipper on a crocodile's face in India.



Water journey
This overhead shot of a coastal stream in Australia was taken by Stuart Chape.

SUPER SLUGGER
In an August 6 game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Los Angeles Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani made his 1,000th career hit.

Ben Casparius of the Dodgers pitches against the Padres on August 17.

Free burgers for fans

For decades, George Webb Restaurants has given away free burgers to the city of Milwaukee whenever the Brewers win 12 straight games. When the team hit that streak on August 13, the promise was fulfilled for the third time. Two previous streaks took place in 1987 and 2018.

MLB postseason race heats up

As the 2025 MLB (Major League Baseball) season winds down, the playoff race is gaining excitement with many teams vying for a postseason spot. The past week was filled with key matchups, historic moments, and a celebration of youth baseball.

One highlight of the season's second half has been the hot play of the Milwaukee Brewers. They recently compiled the longest winning streak of any team this season, emerging victorious in 14 consecutive games. They hold a record of 22–5 since the All-Star break and are comfortably on top of the MLB win leaderboard.

Mark Vientos

On August 22–24, a key series was played between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres. The two teams have been battling for the top spot in the National League (NL) West division. The Dodgers, the 2024 World Series champs, are seeking their 12th NL West title in 13 seasons. The Padres last won the division in 2006.

San Diego was in first place heading into the series. But Los Angeles won all three games to complete a sweep and move back into first place. In the final game of the series, Dodgers stars Freddie Freeman and Mookie Betts each hit a home run in a 5–4 victory.

On August 17, the next chapter in a recent MLB tradition took place in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. For the eighth straight season, two MLB teams squared off in the Little League Classic, coinciding with the Little League World Series, which began on August 13 and will conclude on August 24.

In the game, the New York Mets defeated the Seattle Mariners, 7–3. After a delayed start due to rain, New York scored three runs in the second inning and didn't look back. In the bottom of the fifth, Mets third baseman Mark Vientos launched a three-run homer to put the game out of reach.

Earlier in the week, Mets first baseman Pete Alonso made history by hitting his 253rd career home run, the most in franchise history.

As the regular season enters its final stage, other division leaders include the Toronto Blue Jays (American League East), Detroit Tigers (AL Central), Houston Astros (AL West), and Philadelphia Phillies (NL East).

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

GOLF

In pro golf, Scottie Scheffler, the world's top-ranked player, won the BMW Championship by two strokes on August 17. This is his fifth PGA Tour title this year and second straight year with at least five Tour titles. Elsewhere in golf, 18-year-old Mason Howell won the US Amateur on August 17. He is the third-youngest winner in the event's history and the youngest since 2009.

SOCCER

In the NWSL (National Women's Soccer League), the San Diego Wave defeated Bay FC, 2–1, on August 16. The Wave are in second place in the league. In club soccer, the 2025–26 English Premier League season kicked off on August 15, with defending champion Liverpool defeating Bournemouth, 4–2. In another big match, last season's runner-up, Arsenal, defeated Manchester United, 1–0, on August 17.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!
The Golden State Valkyries recently announced that Violet the Raven will be their mascot.

The Lynx vs. the Liberty on August 16

Battle for WNBA playoff spots

The 2025 WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) season is heading into its final stretch. Each team is playing 44 regular-season games, the most in league history.

Eight of the 13 teams will head to the playoffs, set to begin in September 14, and the race for those spots is tight. Several teams face the added challenge of having top players—including Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever and Napheesa Collier of the Minnesota Lynx—sidelined by injuries.

On August 12, the Lynx became the first team to officially clinch a playoff berth. Although they didn't play that day, they had a large lead in the standings and results from other contests allowed them to secure a spot. It marks their third straight postseason appearance and the team's 14th trip to the playoffs in 15 years.

The Lynx, who lost in last year's finals to the New York Liberty, faced the Liberty on August 16. It was the teams' third matchup in 18 days, renewing what has become one of the league's most intense rivalries. The Lynx won, 86–80, improving their league-best record to 28–5.

Another recent highlight was the WNBA's first-ever Canada Game. On August 15 in Vancouver, the Seattle Storm and Atlanta Dream met in the first regular-season contest played outside the US. The Storm won, 80–78, led by Skylar Diggins, who tallied 21 points and 11 assists in the victory.

On August 17, the Washington Mystics beat the Los Angeles Sparks, 95–86, in a key game in the playoff race. This tied the teams for ninth place in the standings with identical 16–18 records. The Storm are in eighth place with a record of 17–18.

COACH OF THE WEEK

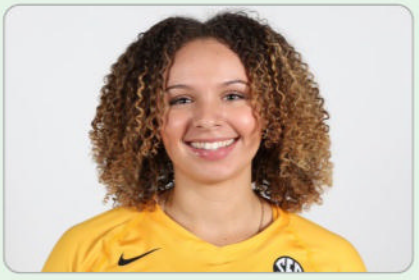
Coach's Name: **Aaron Galvin**

Team: **Straight Blast Gym (Brazilian Jiujitsu)**

"Coach Aaron is the most encouraging coach ever! He is always there to help me, whether I've lost a sparring match, I've gotten overwhelmed, or I don't understand something. He is a purple belt, which means he has a lot of education. He has improved my skills ever since I started jiujitsu. Coach Aaron is also the funniest person in the gym. Whenever we are drilling, he is the first one to bust out a joke. He is the best!" Will, 12, Montana

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Tañia Duncan

AGE: 21 SPORT: TRACK AND FIELD
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Family link My dad was a pro javelin thrower and a throws coach. Growing up, I was always around track. I tried different events but never found any as interesting as throwing. My main events are discus and hammer. One of the best and hardest things about throwing is how individual it is. I win and lose under my own power.

Role model My mom is super strong. When I was growing up, she was into Olympic weightlifting. It really inspired me. I'm blessed to have two parents I could look up to athletically.

Winning mindset It's been hard finding a balance between wanting to do well and being OK with any outcome. Going into last season, I had a back injury. My dad sent me a text that said, "By competing, you've already won."

Ready to go At a meet, it's really easy to think about all the things you need to do. I'm an overthinker, so that can be a stressor. I usually talk to my coach so I know what he wants me to focus on. Then before I throw, I try to focus my mind on one thing and let everything else go so I can compete loosely and with joy. It's not worth nitpicking my technique 30 seconds before throwing.

Moving ahead I'm in graduate school now. I finished my undergrad degree in three years instead of four. I had to make a lot of sacrifices to do that, but my goals were bigger than the tough moments.

Wise words Make sure you love whatever you do, whether it's a sport, music, acting, or something else. Knowing in your heart what brings you joy helps push you to the next level.

GETTY IMAGES; UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ATHLETICS (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); GEORGE WEBB RESTAURANTS

SPECIAL SHADES
Artist Takashi Murakami's favorite colors are shocking pink and neon purple.

Kaikai Kiki Style "Karajishi-zu Byōbu"

Art mixing history and culture

An exhibition at a museum in Cleveland, Ohio, is highlighting the work of popular artist Takashi Murakami.

The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) in Ohio is celebrating the work of Japanese artist Takashi Murakami. He is famous for making paintings and sculptures with vibrant colors, cartoon-like characters, and elements of traditional fine art and commercial (mainstream) culture. More than 100 pieces of Murakami's art from throughout his career are on display in the exhibition *Takashi Murakami: Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow*. It runs through September 7.

Murakami was born in 1962 and learned traditional Japanese painting at college in Tokyo. After studying in New York City in the 1990s, he created his "Superflat" style. The name refers to how his art looks and how he thinks Japanese culture has been "flattened" by outside influences. Some of his work was inspired by traumatic events, and Emily Liebert, a curator (person who chooses art) at the CMA, told a public media channel the exhibition is "about art's capacity to give us new outlets and to heal."

Takashi Murakami

One highlight of the show is a three-story replica of the Yumedono, an ancient temple in Nara, Japan. To build it, Murakami had help from a designer who worked on the award-winning TV series *Shōgun*, which is set in late-1500s Japan. Inside the Yomedono are four new anime-like paintings of a tiger, dragon, bird, and tortoise. Nature is a common theme in Japanese painting, and Murakami is well-known for flowers with faces. They can be found in a grouping of flower portrait paintings, in sculptures, and on wallpaper.

The CMA is filled with artwork from many time periods. Liebert said that when visitors take in Murakami's work in that context, she hopes they will "see the ways that the past can cast new light on the present, and the way that contemporary art can help us see with fresh eyes the past."

More about Murakami

Famous characters

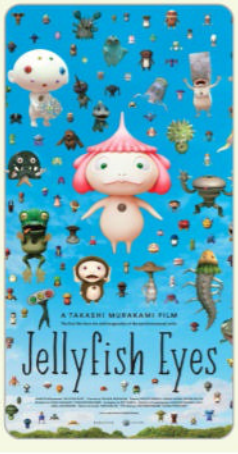
Two figures that Murakami includes in a lot of his pieces are Kaikai (above left) and Kiki (above right). In 2010, they flew as balloons in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Collaborations

He has worked with the Los Angeles Dodgers and singer Billie Eilish, and his art has been on Vans sneakers and Louis Vuitton bags. At the Fondation Louis Vuitton museum in Paris, France, one of Murakami's statues stands on Vuitton trunks (right).

Movie director

The artist directed the 2013 Japanese live-action fantasy film *Jellyfish Eyes*. It is a story about a boy who moves to a new town where he and his classmates have the ability to communicate with strange creatures.



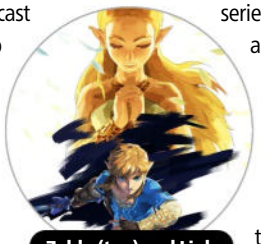
BRICK BUZZ
On October 1, Lego will release a Nintendo Game Boy model set that will include a mini replica of a Legend of Zelda game.

Benjamin Evan Ainsworth (left) and Bo Bragason

The Legend of Zelda movie news

A live-action film based on Nintendo's beloved video game series The Legend of Zelda will arrive in theaters in 2027, and the actors who will portray its main characters have been revealed. In a recent post on social media, Shigeru Miyamoto, the game's famous creator, announced that Benjamin Evan Ainsworth has been cast as Link, the courageous hero, and Bo Bragason will play Zelda, princess of the magical kingdom of Hyrule.

The first Legend of Zelda game was released in 1986 and has become one of Nintendo's most iconic and longest-running video game franchises. The games have different stories, but most center on Link as he explores mystical lands and battles evil Ganon and other villains to protect the kingdom. Plot details of the film have not been revealed yet, but it is expected to blend fantasy adventure with emotional storytelling and themes of courage, destiny, and friendship.

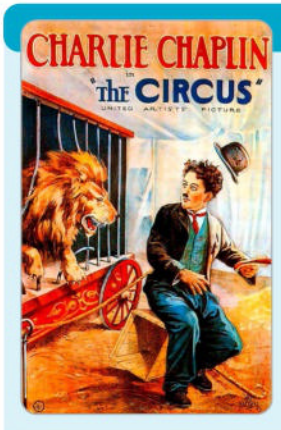


Zelda (top) and Link

The film's young stars are both British actors. Ainsworth, age 16, voiced the title character in the 2022 live-action film *Pinocchio*, and Bragason, age 21, played Roxy in the 2024 fantasy adventure series *Renegade Nell*. Miyamoto, who is also Nintendo's game director and a producer on the upcoming film, said of the actors, "I am very much looking forward to seeing both of them on the big screen."

Director Wes Ball, who made the sci-fi trilogy *The Maze Runner*, is directing the Zelda movie. In an interview with *Total Film* last year, he said he knows how important the adaptation is to fans, and he wants it to "fulfill people's greatest desires." He also said that his goal is for it to be "something serious and cool but also fun and whimsical."

READER RECOMMENDS

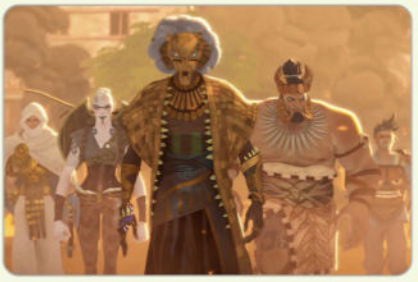


The Circus *G (Prime Video, Hulu, or rent on other platforms)*

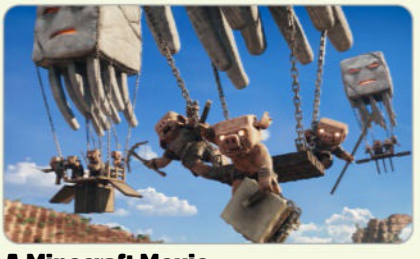
"This is one of my favorite movies of all time! It is a funny and entertaining silent film from 1928 starring the famous actor Charlie Chaplin. It is about a man who accidentally ends up in the middle of a circus performance while running from a cop. He is a hit with the audience, so the ringmaster hires him to make his failing show better. While he is working for the circus, he finds out the ringmaster is too harsh on his stepdaughter, one of the performers, so he tries to help her find a better life. This film is great for kids. The stunts will have the whole family in hysterics!" Scarlet, 12, North Carolina

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Eyes of Wakanda
(Disney+)
Marvel's new animated series set in *Black Panther*'s kingdom of Wakanda follows the Hatut Zeraze, a group of warriors who are like secret agents. Each episode follows a different character as they carry out missions to reclaim lost Vibranium artifacts. It is rated TV-14.



A Minecraft Movie (Block Party Edition)
(HBO Max)
The hit film follows four misfits who get pulled into the Minecraft universe. This special edition has on-screen lyrics and quotes to encourage viewers to sing along or shout the characters' lines. The regular version is also streaming.

Songs & Stories with Kelly Clarkson
(Peacock) (NBC) August 19 at 10 p.m. ET
Kelly Clarkson, a famous singer-songwriter and talk-show host, chats with other performers in this new four-part special. Each episode has a different guest, including the Jonas Brothers and Lizzo. The guests talk about their life and music and also perform.

GETTY IMAGES (2); NINTENDO; ROY EXPORT SAS; COURTESY OF MARVEL; COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES; WEISS EUBANKS/NBCUNIVERSAL; ON LEFT PAGE: TAKASHI MURAKAMI/KAIKAI KIKI CO., LTD. (3); PHOTOS BY SHIN SUZUKI, DAVID BRICHFORD; SHUTTERSTOCK; JANUS FILMS

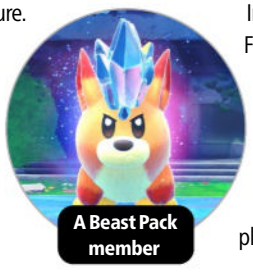
BIG DEBUT
Kirby first appeared in a game for the Nintendo GameBoy in 1992.

Kirby and the Forgotten Land–Nintendo Switch 2 Edition + Star-Crossed World

Fun Kirby game gets an upgrade

In 2022, Nintendo released Kirby and the Forgotten Land, an award-winning 3D platforming adventure for the Switch. It is the best-selling game in the Kirby franchise, and on August 28, an upgraded edition is being released for the Switch 2. Kirby and the Forgotten Land–Nintendo Switch 2 Edition + Star-Crossed World will feature improved graphics plus a new adventure. People can buy the entire game, but those who already own the old one and a Switch 2 can buy an upgrade pack instead.

In Kirby and the Forgotten Land, a dark vortex appears in the sky over Dream Land and sucks up Kirby and a bunch of creatures called Waddle Dees. When Kirby wakes up, he is in the strange Forgotten Land and the Waddle Dees are missing. You play as Kirby, and with help from a character named Elfilin, your goal is to rescue the Waddle Dees, defeat the scheming Beast Pack, and get home. Kirby's special power is that he can take deep breaths to inhale enemies and copy their powers, and inhaling air helps him fly. In this game, Kirby also can inhale items such as cars and soda machines.



A Beast Pack member

In Star-Crossed World, the new story, a meteor crashes into the Forgotten Land, causing an island—along with an evil threat—to rise from the sea. To save the day, Kirby and Elfilin have to find Starries, parts of a magic heart that shattered over the land.

Star-Crossed World has changes to familiar locations, a tougher Beast Pack, new villains, added Kirby transformations, and a special boss rush game. The differences mean there are plenty of fun challenges for existing fans and newcomers alike.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

LOL STORYTIME

lolstorytime.com and major platforms

Milan, a 9-year-old reader of *The Week Junior*, recommended this podcast in which the host reads silly original short stories. Each episode explores imagined scenarios, such as a talking raccoon who organizes a waffle heist and a girl whose astronaut parents bring her a pet from the Moon.

GAME OF THE WEEK

BOXVILLE 2

Apple App Store, Google Play

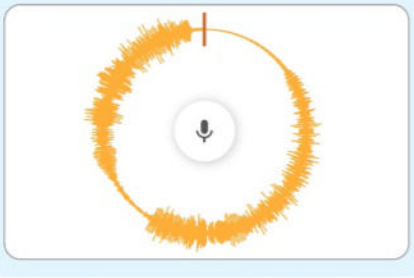
The heroes of this hand-drawn adventure game are two tin can friends. When a local celebration with fireworks causes chaos, one friend goes missing. Your role is to help the remaining can find its friend and restore order by interacting with objects and solving puzzles throughout the city.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

VOICE SPINNER

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-VoiceSpinner

This site from Google's Chrome Music Lab lets you play around with sound. Record your voice or any noise, then use an on-screen spinner to play it back at different speeds and pitches. Spin faster for higher, squeakier sounds, or slower for deeper tones, then share the results with friends.



NINTENDO (2); FUNNY STORIES FOR KIDS; TRIOMATICA GAMES; GOOGLE

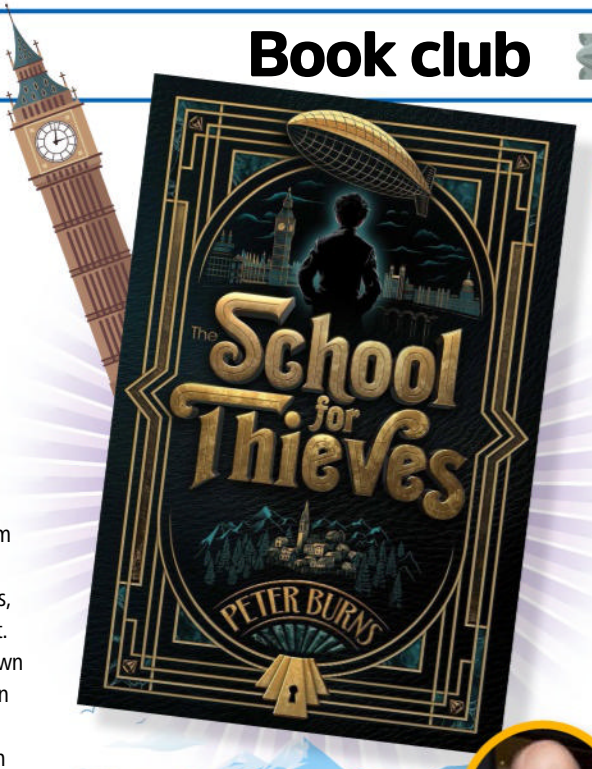
BOOK OF THE WEEK

The School for Thieves

By Peter Burns

(Aladdin)

Tom and his friends are orphans, and they steal from people to survive on the tough streets of London, England. His friends are caught and forced to live in a grim workhouse, where they labor all day. Tom wants to rescue his pals, but he doesn't know how to do it. One day, a mysterious man, known as the Corsair, recruits Tom to join Beaufort's School for Deceptive Arts, a boarding school located in the Swiss Alps. The Corsair tells Tom he could train to become a Shadow Thief and a member of the Shadow League, the top-secret international group that helps keep global political power in balance. Tom accepts the invitation and enrolls in the school, hoping to learn the skills he needs to help save his friends. He becomes a great student, forging papers and replacing expensive jewels with fakes. But Tom soon realizes that Beaufort has its own evil secrets, and he'll need to uncover as much as he can to rescue himself, his friends, and possibly the world. This page-turner is the first installment of a thrilling new action-packed series that combines elements of *Spy Kids* and *Oliver Twist*. *Ages 10–14*



ASK THE AUTHOR

Peter Burns

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this book?
I got the idea about 10 years ago while in Scotland. We were staying in the middle of nowhere, and as we were walking through the woods, I thought how cool it would be if there was a secret school for criminals there.

What is one of the themes of Tom's story?
You're the master of your own destiny. Ultimately, you can create your own history in your own future, no matter where you come from.

Did anything surprise you when writing this book?
I've worked mainly as a sports writer, so I was surprised by how much more exhausting writing fiction was compared to writing nonfiction.

Any writing advice?
Keep revising. I'm not a particularly strong writer of first drafts, but I'm an excellent rewriter.

Favorite activity?
I'm passionate about rugby and love watching it.

4 books with gripping first chapters

Librarians said these exciting titles will hook you into the story from the start.

The Bad Beginning

By Lemony Snicket

(HarperCollins)

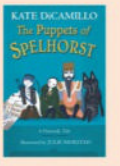
"The chapter that kicks off this book, the first in a popular series, perfectly sets up the adventures that follow," said Emily Cain of the Indianapolis Public Library in Indiana. "In trying to convince you not to read the following pages, it makes you want to read them more." *Ages 8–12*

Dawn of the Jaguar

By J.C. Cervantes

(Rick Riordan Presents)

The main character, Ren, is in a race against time in the opening chapter of this second book in the Shadow Bruja duology. "A choice she's made has crippled her powers, forcing her to rely on her inner strength to save her friends," said Vanessa Iris Soto of the Hoboken Public Library in New Jersey. *Ages 8–12*

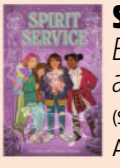


The Puppets of Spelhorst

By Kate DiCamillo

(Candlewick)

Dripping with magic and crackling with wit, this book about puppets coming to life is no ordinary story, Cain said. The first pages instantly transport you to a different world. Reading about the troubles and triumphs of the puppets is riveting, and the book also has a deeper meaning. *Ages 7–10*

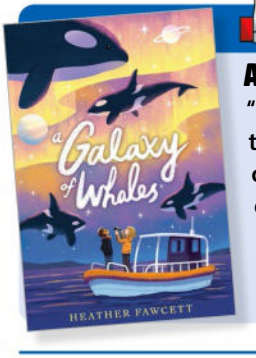


Spirit Service

By Sarena Nanua and Sasha Nanua

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

After four friends are zapped by an antique phone, they gain the ability to connect with ghosts—and that's just the beginning. Using their superpowers, they start a business to raise money for their school's art program. "It's a spooky story that fans of The Baby-Sitters Club series will enjoy," Soto said. *Ages 8–12*



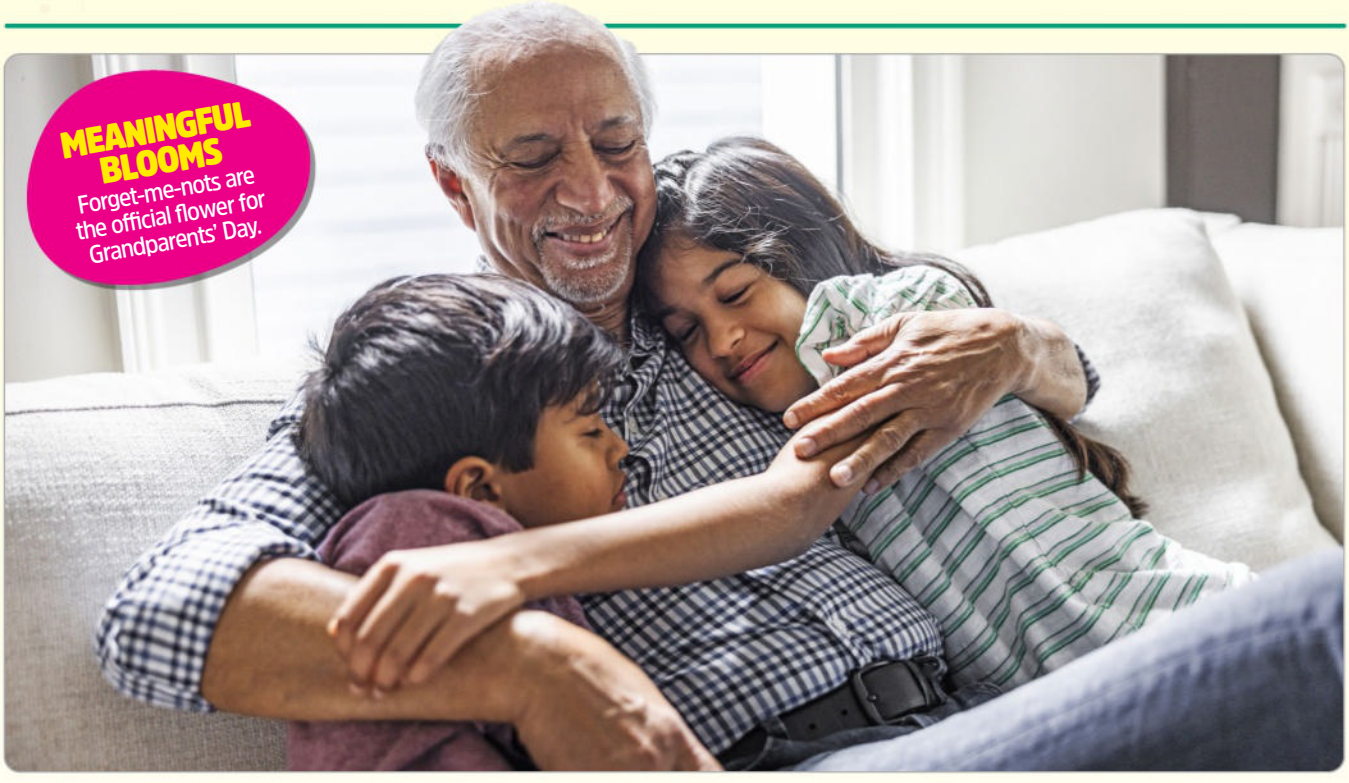
READER RECOMMENDS

A Galaxy of Whales *By Heather Fawcett*

"Fern's mom runs a whale-watching company, and they live next door to Jasper. His parents also run a whale-watching company, and Fern considers him her enemy. When Fern finds out about a photography contest, she wants to win, but so much else is happening. Her mom's company is losing customers, and her best friend is ignoring her. This book is full of twists and turns and mystery." Jasmine, 9, North Carolina

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: ROSS PARKER; GETTY IMAGES



MEANINGFUL BLOOMS
Forget-me-nots are the official flower for Grandparents' Day.

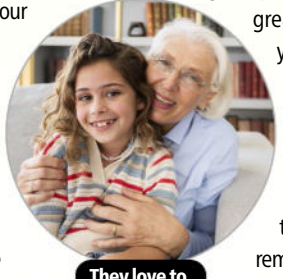
Show grandparents you care

Try these fun and easy ways to make sure they know you appreciate them.

Grandparents' Day has been observed in the US on the first Sunday after Labor Day since 1979. This year, the holiday is being celebrated on September 7. Here are some thoughtful ways you can show your grandparents how much you care about them.

Surprise them

Even though Grandparents' Day has existed for more than 40 years, many families don't know about it. If you haven't celebrated it before, surprise your grandparents this year. You could do something as simple as baking them a special treat, sending a handmade card, or filling out the form on the next page and sharing it with them.



They love to be with you!

Spend time together

Chances are, your grandparents would like nothing more than to spend time with you. Talk to them about what activity they would enjoy. That might be taking a walk through a local park, cooking a family recipe, volunteering, or doing one of their favorite hobbies, like gardening. If you can't be together, you can send them a special message. Try recording a video wishing them a happy Grandparents' Day and sharing some of your favorite memories.

Create a family tree

Another way to make grandparents feel special is to make a family tree with their help. This is an activity you can do in person or from a distance. You can design a family tree online at Canva or create it with pencil and paper. At the bottom of the tree, insert your name and the names of any siblings. Above those names, put your parents' names, then your grandparents'. Add branches above them for great-grandparents, and see how far back you can go together in your family tree!

Ask them to share their memories

Grandparents are often the historians of the family. They know the most about where your family came from, have lived through different time periods, and remember your parents from when they were young. Passing down this knowledge to their grandchildren is important to many grandparents, and their stories are often really fun and interesting. One way to learn about your family's past is to ask your grandparents to look at old photo albums with you and talk about the family members in the pictures. You can also hear more of their memories by asking questions (see examples in the box at right).

Questions to ask

You might be surprised by what your grandparents have to say about these topics.

What was a typical meal like when you were a child? What kinds of food did you eat?

What did you like to do for fun when you were my age?

Have you lived anywhere else apart from here? Where? What do you remember about it?

What's the best thing we have today that you didn't have when you were young?

Is there something you wish children growing up now could experience from your own childhood?

GETTY IMAGES

Why my grandparents are important to me

Grandparents' Day is coming up on September 7, 2025. This is a day when people of different generations are encouraged to connect with one another. We invite you to use this form to write down your thoughts about one or more of your grandparents—or any special older people in your life. You can share this form with them—they may enjoy knowing what you have to say! Our editorial team would also love to read what you write and see your artwork. To share your thoughts and drawing with us, ask an adult to email your form to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. If you need extra forms, they can be found online at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.

First name _____ **Age** _____ **State** _____

In honor of Grandparents' Day, explain why your grandparents are important to you.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

If you could describe your grandparents in three words, which words would you choose?

_____

_____

_____

What is one of your favorite memories of being with your grandparents?

_____

_____

_____

Draw a picture of yourself with your grandparents.

Crisscross

Each of these words that begin and end with the same letter fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

3 letters
DAD
DUD

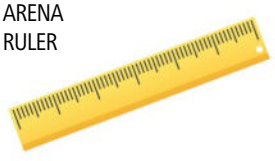
4 letters
CROC
DEED
ERIE
GANG
OHIO
PEEP
PROP

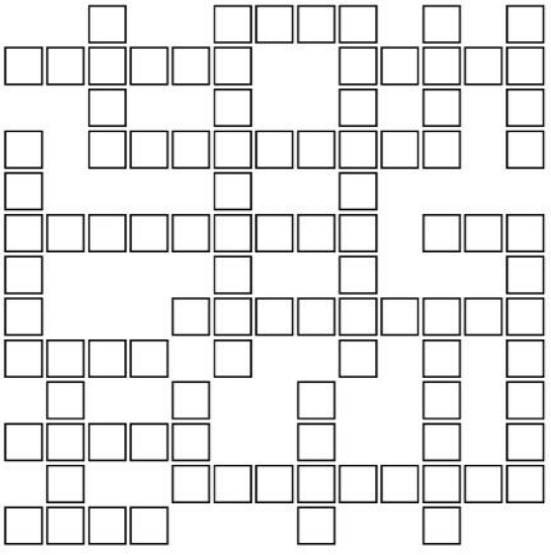
5 letters
ALOHA
ARENA
RULER

6 letters
AFRICA
EXHALE
HEALTH

7 letters
DOGSLED

9 letters
DACHSHUND
DARTBOARD
DEDICATED
GROUNDHOG
HOPSCOTCH
PHOTOSHOP





Take five

Five 5-letter things at a hotel are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

S	A	E	B	S
C	U	B	T	Y
R	O	E	S	E
G	L	I	E	K
L	U	T	R	T

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters P-A-N. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

1. **Country known for anime and manga** — ☐☐PAN
2. **Kitchen storage area** — PAN☐☐☐
3. **Language spoken in much of Latin America** — ☐PAN☐☐☐
4. **Great ape known for its intelligence** — ☐☐☐☐PAN☐☐☐
5. **Gas in the tanks of many barbecue grills** — ☐☐☐PAN☐

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

6			5		
	1			3	
		5			3
1			4		
	5			6	
		2			4

Spot the difference

These two pictures of Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Take five hint: One word begins with RA.

Sliding in a signature

The grand slam of autographs

A giant baseball recently traveled across the US to achieve a world record for the most signatures on an item of sports memorabilia. While most autographed baseballs feature a player's handwriting, this 8-foot, 1,200-pound sphere collected the signatures of Minor League Baseball fans. In about a month, it was signed by 6,750 people—including the league's commissioner—knocking the previous record holder out of the park. An official said the big ball may appear in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Do you want fries with that?

Ketchup smoothie introduced

Smoothie King stores have teamed up with the Heinz ketchup brand to create a ketchup smoothie. The ruby-red concoction contains ketchup along with strawberries, raspberries, açai berries, and apple juice. Available for a limited time at stores in five US states, the sweet and savory beverage quickly stirred up controversy, with some people declaring it "disgusting" and others calling it an "unexpectedly delicious" fruit smoothie with a slight "tomato tang." One reviewer said it's a way to "make today a little weird!"

It may seem nutty, but it works.

"Squirrel cars" help guide dogs

A UK organization has found a creative way to train service dogs to ignore squirrels. Dogs usually love chasing them, but guide dogs must be calm and attentive while supporting humans with vision impairments. Trainer Hannah Liebeskind told BBC News that as a solution, her group started attaching toy squirrels to remote-controlled cars. The fake rodents whiz around, she said, while trainers teach young dogs to stay focused and resist "fluffy distractions."

Real or fake?

Can you graduate with high honors?

A degree for climbing mountains

South Korea's Seoul National University is now offering a college degree in mountain climbing. While most students spend afternoons in the library, these scholars will travel to local peaks to strengthen their bodies along with their brains. School officials say the new degree will prepare students for important careers as mountain guides, search and rescue professionals, or rope access technicians (people who use climbing techniques to assist with construction and maintenance work). Is this a true story, or are we bluffing?*

*Fake! The university does not have a mountaineering degree, but it is offering money to students who climb three to six mountains by year's end. More than 1,400 people applied for the scholarship, which rewards "a spirit of challenge."

MLB.COM; HEINZ; GUIDEDOGSUK; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

Editor's note

Each week I find myself thinking about the many different cities, states, and countries featured in our pages and asking myself which ones I would most like to visit. Do I want to go to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado (p5) or the state fair in Iowa or Washington (p5)? Or would I rather visit China, which recently hosted the World Games (p3), or France, where Notre-Dame Cathedral has once again been named the nation's most popular tourist attraction (p6)? My answer is yes, I'd like to go to all those places! But if I could choose only one, it would be Rapa Nui, the remote island in the Pacific Ocean where nearly 1,000 giant (and mysterious) stone statues stand (p12). They were built thousands of years ago, but how—and why? I would love to think about these questions while exploring the island for myself. Where in the world would you most like to go? Tell us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

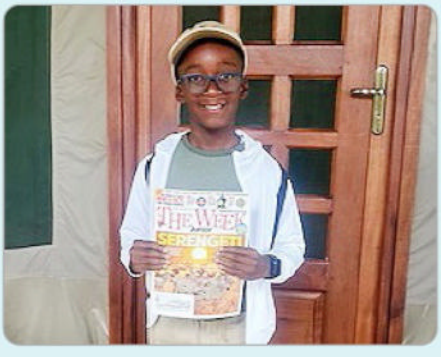
New Story Inc.

This organization's mission is to assist families in Latin America that want to buy a home or land. It works with local developers to create affordable housing and empowers people to organize their finances so they can make a purchase. The group helped 3,232 people become homeowners or landowners in 2023, and it plans to assist 10,000 families over the next three years. Find out more at newstoryhomes.org. NEW STORY

YOUR SPECTACULAR VACATION PHOTOS

◀ **"We loved reading *The Week Junior* on a scenic train ride through the Swiss Alps! It was the perfect way to learn and stay entertained while enjoying the breathtaking views."** Aavyan, 12, and Anaisha, 8, California

▼ **"I took *The Week Junior* to Kenya! My family and I went on a safari to Maasai Mara National Reserve, and we saw zebras getting ready for a long trek."** Noah, 9, Texas



▲ **"We read *The Week Junior* on our summer vacation to Colorado. One of our favorite sites was the Manitou Cliff Dwellings."** Jonah, 11, and Ella, 9, Louisiana

▼ **"Your article about the Scopes Trial inspired my family to stop in Dayton, Tennessee, to see the courtroom and museum."** Jack, 11, Georgia

2B 23
THE SCOPES TRIAL
Here, from July 10 to 21, 1925, John Thomas Scopes, a county high school teacher, was tried for teaching that man descended from a lower order of animals, in violation of a lately passed state law. William Jennings Bryan assisted the prosecution; Clarence Darrow, Arthur Garfield Hays and Dudley Field Malone the defense. Scopes was convicted.
THE WEEK

▲ **"I took *The Week Junior* to Stockholm, Sweden. That is the Royal Palace across the water."** Abigail, 10, New York

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Your turn

Thank you to everyone who sent us photos of themselves enjoying *The Week Junior* while taking a trip! If you have a photo of yourself holding *The Week Junior* anywhere in the world, we'd love to see it. Have an adult email it to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's happening in the photo.

▲ **"I had to bring *The Week Junior* on our trip to a cabin in the woods!"** Tyler, 8, New Jersey

▼ **"We took *The Week Junior* with us on our road trip. Here we are at Crater Lake in Oregon!"** Sigrid, 13, and Hendrik, 8, Massachusetts

▲ **"We love reading *The Week Junior* so much that we took it on a plane ride with us!"** Liv, 11, and James, 8, Washington, DC

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Manske**

School: **Boulder Elementary School**

"Mrs. Manske is so kind. Whenever there is a problem, she helps us. When we feel sad, Mrs. Manske makes us shine bright like the sun. If a student is having trouble with something, she slows down to make sure everyone can catch up. Mrs. Manske is always there for everyone in the class, and she makes everyone feel like they can do absolutely anything! She makes learning so fun!"

Avery, 8, Montana

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Take five
suite
clerk
rates
guest
lobby

All the same
1. Japan
2. pantry
3. Spanish
4. chimpanzee
5. propane

6	2	3	5	4	1
5	1	4	2	3	6
2	4	5	6	1	3
1	3	6	4	2	5
4	5	1	3	6	2
3	6	2	1	5	4

Quiz answers (from page 30) **1** c) Texas **2** True **3** a) Shadow League **4** Superflat **5** a) Delve **6** True **7** c) Skibidi **8** Mothers and Matriarchs **9** a) China **10** False. It is located in the Pacific Ocean. **11** c) Zooplankton **12** Star-Crossed World **13** b) Minnesota Lynx **14** False. It is the oldest. **15** Ketchup

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Where is the biggest state fair in the US?
a) Iowa b) Michigan c) Texas
a☐ b☐ c☐

2 True or false? The kakapo is the world's only flightless parrot species.
True☐ False☐

3 In the book *The School for Thieves*, what is the name of the top-secret group Tom is training to join?
a) Shadow League
b) Spy League
c) Swiss League
a☐ b☐ c☐

4 What is the name of the art style Takashi Murakami created in the 1990s?

5 A recent study found that ChatGPT often added which of these words to text it had edited?
a) Delve b) Debate c) Decide
a☐ b☐ c☐

6 True or false? The Milwaukee Brewers had the longest winning streak in Major League Baseball this season.
True☐ False☐

7 Which of these words does language expert Adam Aleksic most enjoy explaining?
a) Delulu b) Rizz c) Skibidi
a☐ b☐ c☐

8 What was the theme of this year's World Elephant Day?

12

10

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

1

8

9

9 Which country finished with the most medals at the 2025 World Games?
a) China
b) Germany
c) Spain
a☐ b☐ c☐

10 True or false? Rapa Nui, famous for its stone statues, is a remote island located in the Atlantic Ocean.
True☐ False☐

11 Copepods, krill, and salps are all types of floating organisms known as what?
a) Kelp
b) Phytoplankton
c) Zooplankton
a☐ b☐ c☐

12 What is the name of the new adventure that was added to the video game Kirby and the Forgotten Land?

13 Which team was the first to clinch a spot in the WNBA playoffs this season?
a) Indiana Fever
b) Minnesota Lynx
c) New York Liberty
a☐ b☐ c☐

14 True or false? A pterosaur whose name means "ash-winged dawn goddess" is the youngest ever found in North America.
True☐ False☐

15 Smoothie King has released a new drink inspired by which condiment?

THE WEEK Junior

Editorial director: Andrea Barbalich
Executive editor: Mindy Walker
Senior editors: Joey Bartolomeo, Gail O'Connor, Alisa Partlan, Jennifer Li Shotz
Associate editor: Brielle Diskin
Assistant editor: Asha Sridhar
Senior writer: Brandon Wiggins
Staff writer: Felissa Allard
Senior research editor: Douglas Grant
Creative director: Dean Abatemarco
Production director: Paul Kramer
Senior art director: Victoria Beall

Photo editors: Lily Alt, Nataki Hewling
Contributors: Stephanie Abramson, Karen Cicero, Erica Clark, Stacy Cousino, Susie Dent, Truman Devitt, Phoebe Houser, Dave Howard, Joy Howard, Jodi Levine, Puzzability, Melisa Russo, Jordan Zakarin
Managing director, news: Richard Campbell
Brand director, news: Harry Haydon
VP, marketing: Chris Rushe
Senior director, consumer marketing: Leslie Guarnieri
Head of growth marketing: Colleen Shire Ho
Digital marketing director: Katie Hay
Publisher: Stevie Lee (*stevie.lee@futurenet.com*)
Account director: Mary Gallagher (*mary.gallagher@futurenet.com*)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Operations manager: Cassandra Mondonedo

Reader submissions: *hello@theweekjunior.com*
Customer service: *TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com*
New subscriptions: TheWeekJunior.com
©2025. All rights reserved. *The Week* and *The Week Junior* are registered trademarks. Neither the whole of this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publishers.
The Week Junior (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 3, January 10, July 11, and September 12. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior,* PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

FUTURE
Connectors. Creators. Experience Makers.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR)
www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive Officer **Kevin Li Ying**
Non-Executive Chairman **Richard Huntingford**
Chief Financial Officer **Sharjeel Suleman**
Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244

GETTY IMAGES (3); KEVIN BROWN; NINTENDO

Give *The Week Junior* to YOUR child for a SMART START to the school year!

SCIENCE • ANIMALS • PUZZLES • PEOPLE • ARTS • PHOTOS • BOOKS • SPORTS • A "HUMAN CALCULATOR"
THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
Three years of war in Ukraine
Comedian receives big honor
Sandwiches: Are they the best lunch?
March 7, 2025 • Vol. 6, Issue 254 • $5.99
Making sense of the world
THE WEEK Junior
THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS
GO WILD!
Join the global celebration of World Wildlife Day p3
NEW! PUZZLE BOOK SERIES • VOLUME 6
PRESENTS
MIND-BENDING PUZZLES!

The Week Junior provides kids with the tools they'll need to be well-read and well-informed independent thinkers—exactly what it takes to be successful students in today's world.

Give 25 weekly issues and save 67%—plus get a free gift!

Order online at theweekjunior.com/smartstart

Back-to-school savings

Order NOW!

Scan This

THE WEEK Junior

BUDDING BEAUTIES
There are about 28,000 species of orchids, one of the few plants whose flowers are symmetrical down the middle, like a human face.

GETTY IMAGES

9001
9000